

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 32 – 40 and 42 - 62 are pending in this application.

Claim 32 has been amended, essentially incorporating the feature of claim 41 therein, and claim 51 has been amended in a corresponding manner, thereby clarifying when the movement of the first substrate past the pressure roller takes place. In particular, for example claim 32, now clearly defines that an adhesive film, which is adhesive on two sides, is pressed against the first substrate via a rotating pressure roller by moving the first substrate linearly past the pressure roller.

With regard to the term "linearly", it is respectfully submitted that for one of ordinary skill in the art, when using the method of the present application, there would be no question that "linearly" defines a straight-line movement. It is respectfully submitted that any other definition for the term "linearly" would not be appropriate for one of ordinary skill in the art, so that this term is clearly to be understood as referring to along a straight line. Please note also the language in claims 32 and 51 that the movement "extends parallel to a surface of said first substrate".

The Examiner has rejected a number of the claims of the present application over the Amo reference, which discloses a method and apparatus for laminating disk-shaped substrates for applying a double-sided adhesive in order in a following step to interconnect two disk-shaped substrates.

Pursuant to Amo, a first substrate is provided, and subsequently an adhesive sheet body, which is covered with release paper, is positioned via a centering shaft. The adhesive sheet body is then pressed against the first substrate by a laminating

roller, which is moved over and past the substrate. Subsequently, with a separate device, the adhesive sheet body is peeled off to expose the adhesive agent of the second adhesive side. A second substrate is subsequently placed on the first substrate, and the two substrates are joined together. With the method and apparatus of Amo, during the lamination process the first substrate is held stationary, and the laminating roller is moved over and past such substrate. With the arrangement of Amo, it is also necessary that the adhesive sheet body be held stationary during the lamination process, i.e. the entire sheet body transport apparatus, comprised of the supply roller 8, the cleaning roller 7, the pitch feed roller 6, etc, is stationary during the positioning process, the laminating process, and the subsequent withdrawal of the adhesive sheet body from the adhesive agent. All of the elements must respectively be moved in stages between the laminating processes, thereby requiring a greater expenditure of energy, since the elements must each be moved out of a stationary state and must subsequently again be brought from a state of movement to a completely stationary state.

In contrast, with the method of the present application as defined in amended claim 32, the adhesive film is pressed by a rotating pressure roller against the first substrate by removing the first substrate linearly, in other words along a straight line, past the pressure roller. Due to the fact that the substrate is moved past the pressure roller, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that during this laminating process the adhesive film is moved along with the substrate. Thus, a film conveying system can essentially operate continuously. A discontinuity in the region of the actual laminating

station results only during a positioning between the adhesive film and the first substrate. However, this positioning process is relatively brief, so that as described on page 10 of the specification of the instant application, a compensation of length of the laminating film 23 between the feed roller 22 and the take-up roller 28 can be compensated for by the guide or compensating rollers 31 and 37. As a result, the feed roller 22 and the take-up roller 28 can be rotated at a constant speed, and it is no longer necessary, as is the case with the prior art, to have a constant stopping and starting with the associated energy consumption.

Pursuant to the method and apparatus of Amo, during the laminating process the holding table 2, which is installed on a rotary table T, is held stationary and the laminating roller is moved over the substrate. It is respectfully submitted that Amo neither teaches nor suggests the possibility of being able to move the holding table, during the laminating process, relative to a laminating roller. In particular, as indicated above it should be noted that the holding table is disposed on the rotary table, so that during a movement relative to a laminating roller a curved path would be described. However, this would effect a lateral relative movement between the laminating roller and the adhesive sheet body, which would lead to destruction thereof. It is therefore respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would in no way consider such a measure.

It should also be noted that none of the other art teaches or suggests a method or apparatus for producing a data carrier as defined in Applicants' amended claims 32 and 51.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the allowability of the pending claims of the instant application. In addition, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call from her in order to discuss any outstanding issues and to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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